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the early explorations, growth of political institutions and the birth of the Australian Commonwealth. One of the best chapters tells of the great work of Leichhardt and of the mystery of his last exploring expedition which was lost in the desert, in 1848.

Corallogene Phosphat-Inseln Austral-Oceaniens und ihre Produkte. Bearbeitet von Carl Elschner. 120 pp. Maps, ills. Max Schmidt, Lübeck, 1913. Mk. 8.75. 10 x 7.

The principal interest of this highly important monograph is that it presents a study of the phosphates of the Pacific islands carefully elaborated for the information of the agricultural chemist and with such discussion of the recent geology of these deposits as may serve as a guide for commercial exploration. Half of the volume is occupied with a study of Nauru and Paanapa, the two richest deposits now commercially exploited. We have very scant information as to these islands and this is a welcome addition. Pursuing his phosphate theme the author presents briefer records of Angaur in the Palau Group, of Makatea in the Tuamotu. He has fallen into a linguistic error when he defines Makatea as signifying "white eye" through misreading *maka* as *mata* eye; *maka* is a good Polynesian word for stone and Makatea really means "white rock," recognizable as a good descriptive name by those of us who have seen the sun light up its white cliffs. These are all islands of upheaval and the phosphate is more or less advanced in the chemical and pressure changes which make the beds a theme of geological inquiry. The islands of recent phosphate formation, to which he devotes a chapter, are the guano islands. Since the book is devoid of an index or even a table of contents it will not be amiss to present a list of these islands: Baker, Howland, Phoenix Group, Sydney, Malden, Starbuck, Christmas, Fanning, Flint, Jarvis, Browse, Lapepède, Laysan, Cornwallis, and Clipperton. Nauru is abundantly illustrated with excellent half tone plates and a well executed map contoured in tint.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

EUROPE

The Northmen in Britain. By E. Hull. 256 pp. Ills., index. T. Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1914 (?) \$1.50. 8½ x 6½.

A good, popular account of the two great streams of northern invasion, Norse and Danish, which met and battled in the ninth, tenth and eleventh centuries, on the shores of Great Britain and Ireland where both nations took deep root, built cities and absorbed much of the commerce of the country. Norse sources are chiefly used in the narrative.

Les Pyrénées Méditerranéennes. Étude de Géographie Biologique. Par Maxmilien Sorre. 508 pp. Map. A. Colin, Paris, 1913. Fr. 12. 10 x 6½.

By the term Mediterranean Pyrenees the author designates the extreme eastern part of the Pyrenees, including the lower hills and plains on the eastern and northern slopes. The northern boundary corresponds to the, formerly political, but now only linguistic, boundary between Languedoc and Catalonia; the southern boundary is a climatic one: it is identical with that of the moist regions characterized by the deciduous forests. Although composed of a number of individual natural regions bearing very ancient names, the country as a whole may be designated as the region where Mediterranean and Pyrenean influences meet and blend. The biological purpose of the book is the description of those species which determine the individual geographical character of the country. After a study of the landscape as a whole, the different types of climate and vegetation are examined, and then the forms of life are compared with these natural conditions in order to ascertain the correlation and interdependence between them. The types of human life are also studied in their relation to the same conditions.

The combined influence of altitude and distance from the sea have pro-

duced several zones of vegetation each of which shows a more or less complete development according to the special local conditions. In the lowlands near the Mediterranean, protection against the droughts of the summer is the dominating feature. Irrigation has much altered the natural conditions. Between 700 and 1700 meters of height, rainfall is abundant and regular. As the steepness of the slopes is not always favorable for agriculture, textile industries and mining are combined with it. Still higher up, pastures predominate. In those regions where sheep and cattle raising are almost the only occupation of the people, interesting social conditions have survived, the classical example of such a survival being described in the small community of Andorra. The description alone of this little known country would repay one for the study of the book. The author further describes the changes which modern economic conditions and methods are working in the original character of the country, and places especial emphasis on the necessity that the "biological equilibrium" must be maintained between mountains and plains if the country is to experience a healthy development, and that development must be in harmony with geographical character. The book is well illustrated with many pictures and diagrams, and a colored map.

M. K. GENTHE.

Sprachgeographische Untersuchungen über den östlichen Teil des katalanisch-languedokischen Grenzgebietes. Von Dr. Karl Salow. 307 pp. Maps. *Mitt. und Abhandl. aus dem Gebiet der roman. Philol., Seminar für roman. Sprachen und Kultur.* Beiheft 7, Jahrb. Hamburg. Wiss. Anstalten, Vol. 29, 1911. 1912. Mk. 20. 9 x 6½

The first part of the book contains philological matter; the second part, based on the special investigations of the first, attempts the solution of the problem why the linguistic boundary between French (Languedocian) and Spanish (Catalan) does not follow the Pyrenees but runs north of them, along the southern ranges of the Courbières Mts. The explanations offered are both geographical and historical. Geographically the Courbières are a rocky range poorly watered and scantily populated, and they probably stopped the progress of the Franks toward the Pyrenees. On the other hand, refugees from Spain, during the Moorish conquest, crossed the Pyrenees to seek protection in the country north of them (and may have been prevented in their turn from proceeding farther northward by the Courbières). As this hypothesis does not seem sufficiently proven to the author, he places greater emphasis on the historical causes for which he disposes of better documentary evidence. Namely, that the province of Roussillon, which corresponds approximately to the territory in question, has always been a political unit by itself. Its original inhabitants, of pre-Celtic stock, held their own so successfully during the Celtic conquest that their country struck the Romans as a province not belonging to Gaul, and they made a separate *colonia* of it. During the sixth century, the former *colonia* became a diocese by itself, and the boundaries both of the *colonia* and of the diocese correspond almost exactly to the linguistic boundary. Admitting the importance which political lines of demarcation may have in the development of languages, the geographer will notwithstanding emphasize the fact that even the Celtic occupation stopped at that mountain range, and ask the question why northern influences never succeeded in asserting themselves farther south—a question which the purely historical explanation leaves unanswered.

M. K. GENTHE.

Die Niederelbe. Von Richard Linde. 4. Auflage. Land & Leute Monographien zur Erdkunde, Nr. 28. 202 pp. Maps, ills. Velhagen & Klasing, Leipzig, 1913. Mk. 4. 10 x 7.

This is an intensive study of the flood plain of the tidewater Elbe, which consists of the following belts: river, overflowed land, levee, marsh, moor, dune, and the margin of the upland *geest*. These parallel topographic belts are further diversified by transverse soil zones of marine sands, brackish water clays, and true river alluvium. The reaction of these physical features upon the life of the people constitutes the major theme.